

Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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AEMBASSY CARACAS 245

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USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, CH, XF, YO, BG

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - FEB 18

FOR POLADS

USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET PRESS HIGHLIGHTS:

--NEGATIVE COVERAGE OF THE U.S. INCLUDES BRICKBATS FOR THE SECRETARY'S LATIN AMERICAN TIP AND CIA CONTROL OF THE MUNICH RADIOS, AS WELL AS REPETITION OF VIETNAMESE AND LAOTIAN CALL FOR U.S. MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA; BUT SUPPORT FOR DETENTE BY AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IS ALSO REPORTED;

--MEDIA CAMPAIGN ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION CONTINUES AS SOFINSKIY (HEAD OF MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT) AND ALEX-ANDROV (PRESIDENT OF ACADEMY OF SCIENCES) ARGUE THAT SOVIETS ARE DOING BETTER THAN THE WEST (SEPTTEL);

--PRAVDA CARRIES A LONG ARTICLE ON THE PEACE MOVEMENT WHICH DEFENDS SOVIETS AGAINST CHARGE THEY ARE MANIPULATING IT;

--IN LIGHT COVERAGE OF THE MIDDLE EAST, IZVESTIYA REPLAYS ELEMENTS OF GROMYKO'S LETTER TO WALDHEIM, BUT ADDS NOTHING NEW;

--CHINA IS ONCE AGAIN MOST PROMINENT ANGOLA CULPRIT;

--MINIC ACCENTUATES THE POSITIVE DURING AN INTERVIEW ON SOVIET-YUGOSLAV BILATERAL RELATIONS;

--BANGLADESH ARRESTS OF GOOD GUYS ARE REPORTED
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BRIEFLY;

--KRASNAYA ZVEZDA CARRIES A LONG ARTICLE BY LEONT'YEV ON THE PACIFIC DOCTRINE (SEPTTEL). END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. IZVESTIYA FEB 17 COVERAGE OF THE SECRETARY'S LATIN AMERICA TRIP IS FAIRLY TOUGH. IT LEADS WITH A DIG THAT THE TRIP HAS BEEN OFT-POSTPONED, FOLLOWS WITH THE STATEMENT THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEM TO BE DIS-

CUSSED IS A "DISCRIMINATORY" FOREIGN TRADE LAW, AND PREDICTS A CHILLY RECEPTION FOR THE SECRETARY THROUGHOUT HIS TRIP. PRAVDA FEB 18 CARRIES A BRIEF TASS REPORT FROM NEW YORK THAT PROMINENT AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN SUPPORT THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF DETENTE AS WELL AS ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION. PRAVDA ALSO CARRIES A TASS REPORT FROM PRAGUE THAT MINARIK ASSERTS THE CIA WAS BEHIND THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968, AND THAT THE CIA IS STILL SUPPORTING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MUNICH-BASED RADIOS.

3. PEACE MOVEMENT. PRAVDA CARRIES A LONG ARTICLE BY V. SHAPOSHNIKOV, MEMBER OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SOVIET COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF PEACE. THE GENERAL THRUST OF SHAPOSHNIKOV'S COMMENTS IS TO PRAISE THE ACHIEVEMENTS ALREADY ATTAINED BY "PEACE FORCES", FIND A RATIONALE FOR KEEPING GOING IN DETENTE CONDITIONS, AND REBUTS CHARGES THAT SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO CREATE A SUPERSTRUCTURE WHICH WILL MERELY INTERFERE WITH THE INDEPENDENCE OF OTHER GROUPS. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH IT CAN ALSO BE READ AS AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP VAUDEVILLE ALIVE, PIECE IS INTERESTING AS INDICATION THAT FRONT-GROUP "AUTONOMY" MAY BE GIVING SOVIETS SOME HEADACHES. END COMMENT.

4. MIDDLE EAST. IZVESTIYA'S LEAD EDITORIAL PRESENTS A RE-RUN OF GROMYKO'S LETTER TO WALDHEIM, BUT DOES NOT SHED ANY LIGHT ON POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS OF THE SOVIET

POSITION RE THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS. CENTRAL PRESS CARRIES A SMALL REPORT FROM BAGHDAD CITING AN IRAQUI NEWSPAPER CHARGE THAT AMERICAN MILITARY BASES IN OMAN, BAHREIN, DIEGO GARCIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND AUSTRALIA REPRESENT A DIRECT THREAT TO "PROGRESSIVE COUNTRIES" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THIS REGION OF THE WORLD.

5. ANGOLA.CENTRAL PRESS MENTIONS THAT FRANCE AND LESOTHO RECOGNIZED THE MPLA REGIME. VARIOUS OTHER STORIES CONCENTRATE THEIR FIRE ON THE PERCEIVED MACHINATIONS OF THE CHINESE IN ANGOLA, WHILE THE U.S. ESCAPES RELATIVELY UNBLOODED.

6. CHINA. PRAVDA CARRIES A COMMENTARY BY TASS POLITICAL OBSERVER YU. KORNILOV PEGGED TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA'S RECENT SPEECH TO A ZAIRIAN DELEGATION VISITING PEKING. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, CHIAO SHOWED PEKING'S OPPOSITION TO A LEGAL AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, AND CHINA NOW FINDS ITSELF STANDING WITH THE RACIST REGIMES OF AFRICA "AND TWO OR THREE OTHERS." PEKING'S APPROACH HAS

BOOMERANGED, SAYS KORNILOV, SHOWING THE MAOISTS AGAIN
AS "ENEMIES OF FREE AND INDEPENDENT AFRICA."

7. YUGOSLAVIA. PRAVDA CARRIES EXCERPTS FROM A TASS
INTERVIEW WITH FONMIN MINIC IN WHICH HE ESSENTIALLY
APPLIES A POSITIVE GLOSS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH
THE USSR.

8. BANGLADESH. PRAVDA FEB 16 REPORTS FROM DACCA THAT
SEVERAL "PROGRESSIVES" WERE ARRESTED, AND IN A COMPLAINING
TONE POINTEDLY NOTES THAT ONE WAS A LEADER OF THE USSR-
BANGLADESH FRIENDSHIP SOVIETY.
SOTESSEL

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